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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ex-Bookkeeper Sentenced in Financial Crimes Scheme

ALBUQUERQUE – An ex-bookkeeper for an Albuquerque company was sentenced to three years in prison Thursday for stealing over \$100,000 from the firm.

Loretta Gallegos pleaded guilty to three counts of forgery, seven counts of embezzlement and one count of tax fraud earlier this year in a plea agreement accepted by Judge Neil Candelaria who sentenced her. Gallegos was employed by Aquatic Consultants, Inc. in Albuquerque.

Gallegos was charged with over 100 felony counts stemming from multiple financial schemes that she carried out to embezzle more than \$100,000 from Aquatic in 2005 and 2006.

“Sentences such as this send a strong message that tax fraud is serious criminal behavior and will, most likely, result in prison time,” said Rick Homans, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Taxation & Revenue Department.

Gallegos faced a total of 18 years in prison, of which all but three were suspended. Judge Candelaria also ordered her to serve five years of supervised probation upon completion of her incarceration. She was also ordered to pay restitution to all victims by the end of her probationary period.

The joint investigation into Gallegos’ criminal activity was conducted by the Albuquerque Police Department - White Collar Crimes Unit and the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department - Tax Fraud Investigations Division.